

Park Mission, Purposes, and Significance

At the beginning of the planning process it is important to reaffirm the park's mission, purposes and significance. We do this to establish a framework within which we can evaluate proposed actions to ensure that they are consistent with the mandate of the park.

A **mission statement** is an overarching definition of why the park exists and what it strives to accomplish. It is based on the enabling legislation as passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Purpose statements clarify the reasons Voyageurs National Park was established and is managed as a unit of the national park system. These reasons are specific to this park and are based on the park's enabling legislation, legislative history, and other formal designations.

Significance statements summarize the essence of the park's importance to our natural and cultural heritage. By recognizing the park's significance, we

can ensure that future management decisions protect and enhance the very things that make the park distinctive and of national interest.

In general management planning, purpose and significance statements are used to:

- Provide the foundation and help set parameters for how the park should be managed and used, and provide the standard and rationale against which proposed decisions and actions can be measured.
- Help set priorities that ensure preservation and conservation of the resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purposes.
- Help neighbors, visitors, and other users understand the rationale behind management decisions.

The mission, purposes, and significance of Voyageurs National Park are:



Mission Statement

Voyageurs National Park preserves the landscape and scenic waterways that shaped the route of the North American fur traders and defined the border between the United States and Canada. The park and its diverse resources provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, scientific study, sportfishing, education, and appreciation of the northwoods lake country.

